

3.8 HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

3.8.1 Existing Conditions

3.8.1.1 Prehistory

In comparison to other areas of the greater Pacific Northwest, the prehistory of upland areas of the western slope of the Cascade Range is poorly understood. Due to a variety of limiting factors, including poor site preservation, the small number of sites subjected to archaeological excavation, a paucity of radiocarbon dates, and few well-defined site components, a comprehensive cultural sequence has not been established for this region (Blukis Onat, 1987; Hollenbeck, 1987; Samuels, 1993). Instead, many studies have incorporated sequences from the adjacent Puget Sound and/or Columbia Plateau regions, which may have more or less relevance to the project area (Lewarch and Larson, 1977; Nelson, 1969).

Although no specific regional cultural sequence has been developed for the western slope of the Cascades, studies conducted within the general vicinity are relevant to the current investigation. Perhaps the most important investigations, due to their close proximity to the current project area, are studies conducted at Chester Morse Lake (Lewarch, 1978; Samuels, 1993). At this locale, approximately 3 miles south of the project area, a sequence of projectile points spanning nearly 9,000 years was identified. Unfortunately, the general absence of organic remains and thus dateable components has prevented the development of a comprehensive cultural chronology.

3.8.1.2 Ethnography

During the ethnographic period, the project vicinity is known to have been at least used, if not permanently occupied by, the Coast Salish-speaking Snoqualmie. According to Waterman (1920), at the time of sustained Euroamerican contact, the Snoqualmie consisted of two distinct groups, Lower and Upper bands. When the Point Elliott Treaty was signed in 1855, the Upper Snoqualmie band occupied the prairies above Snoqualmie Falls and the lower band inhabited the area from the Falls downriver to the confluence of the Snoqualmie and Skykomish Rivers (U.S. Court of Claims, 1933:29,178, 187). Population estimates for the Snoqualmie in the mid-1800s varied from a high of 373 in 1844 to a low of 225 in 1857 (Baenen 1981:450). These estimates, however, represent populations decimated by disease and do not reflect pre-epidemic population levels (Baenen, 1981:450).

The Snoqualmie subsisted primarily on inland riverine and terrestrial resources. Salmon were taken along the length of the Snoqualmie River and its tributaries below the Falls during the autumn runs from September through December. Additionally, trout and Dolly Varden were available in the Snoqualmie River and its tributaries, and in mountain lakes above the Falls. Freshwater mussels and crayfish were also procured from the waterways (Turner, 1976:31). Upper Snoqualmie people relied on kinship ties with villages below the Falls for salmon fishing privileges, in return offering prairie resources such as deer, and camas and bracken fern roots (Larson, 1988).

The Snoqualmie, in particular the Upper Snoqualmie, hunted throughout the year. Primary prey included deer and mountain goat. Lower Snoqualmie people supplemented their diets with resources from both lacustrine and marine environments. The prairies above Snoqualmie Falls provided camas and bracken fern

roots, and wild tiger lily, which were gathered during the summer (Haeberlin and Gunther, 1930). In addition, a variety of berries were available to Lower and Upper Snoqualmie groups along the river and at Snoqualmie Pass.

3.8.1.3 History

Due to its steep and often irregular topography, the western slope of the Cascades, including the foothills along the eastern boundaries of King County, contained limited potential for farming. On the other hand, timber was, and continues to be, of prime economic importance to the area. Euroamerican settlement of the Snoqualmie River Valley is largely an extension of the Puget Basin experience. As the massive supply of timber was depleted in the basin, loggers and their logging camps, occasionally mounted on railroad cars, moved into the upland old-growth forest. The first settlers arrived in the late 1860s to establish homesteads, often in areas cleared of timber by the loggers. In the 1870s, settlers in the Snoqualmie Pass area leased pasture to drovers moving cattle to Seattle through the pass; others operated way stations that furnished room and board to travelers (Prater, 1981:66).

Beginning in the 1870s, wherever the logged-over land was flat enough, farms were established. Cultivated crops included fruit orchards, various grains and forage grasses, and potatoes. Potato cultivation was, however, short-lived on the western slope of the Cascades. During the late 1890s, an infestation of beetles eliminated the potato from the region. Hops were the Snoqualmie Valley boom crop of the 1880s. At one time, 1,500 acres were under cultivation, and harvesting this crop required the employment of 1,200 Native Americans. The collection of buildings around the Hop Growers Association farm, in the vicinity of North Bend, included a post office, cookhouse, trading post, barns, and kilns. Kilns used to dry the hops operated around the clock (Evans, 1990:25; Prater, 1981:66).

By the early 1890s, loggers had moved into the vicinity of North Bend. A sawmill and shingle mill were in operation by 1890. In 1904, consolidation of this mill with another resulted in the establishment of the North Bend Lumber Company. By 1914, Weyerhaeuser and a smaller company had merged to form the Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company, one of the largest on the Pacific coast (Evans, 1990:29). This mill site included company houses, a company store, a school, hospital, railway station, and dormitory facilities for bachelor workers. This logging camp eventually became the present community of Snoqualmie Falls (Watson, 1992:np).

3.8.1.4 Survey Results

To assist in the identification of potential impacts, prior to the initiation of fieldwork, a record search and literature review was conducted at the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) in Olympia, Washington. This study included a review of ethnographic and historic literature and maps, archaeological base maps and site records, survey reports, and atlases of historic places on file. The purpose of the record search was to ascertain the extent of previous archaeological surveys in the project vicinity, as well as the presence or absence of previously recorded cultural resources or potential historic or prehistoric sites within or immediately adjacent to the study area. The King County Office of Cultural Resources was also contacted. Letters were sent by King County Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES) to the Puyallup, Snoqualmie, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot Tribes notifying

them of the project and requesting any additional information they may have on resources within the project area.

The review revealed that no previously identified historic or cultural resources are within the proposed project area. The record search also revealed that the only recorded sites within 1 mile of the proposed project consist of two trestles associated with the Chicago, Milwaukee, Saint Paul, and Pacific Railroad line, south of I-90. Just over a mile away is Camp Waskowitz, a former Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp currently used by the Highline Public School District. Historically, the camp was known as Camp North Bend and was home to CCC members working on Forest Service projects during the latter 1930s.

The literature review also revealed one project of particular relevance to the current investigation, consisting of an archaeological study associated with construction of SE Grouse Ridge Road (Welch, 1981), located east of the proposed facility. During the course of the reconnaissance, a number of possibly prehistoric items were observed on the surface of a terrace adjacent to the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River. These included two flaked stone tools and fire-cracked rock, among a variety of modern refuse. Shovel tests placed into the terrace contained no additional cultural materials. Excavation units placed on the terrace produced a wooden net mender and one basalt flake from the upper 10 cm of each unit. Based on soil profiles, it was concluded that the area had been previously disturbed and was thus ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The finds were apparently not recorded as an archaeological site, given that a site record does not appear within the files of the OAHF.

A field reconnaissance of the proposed project area was undertaken on February 25 to 26, 1999. This initial investigation was confined to the primary project area, consisting of the proposed mining site, the facilities locale within the existing mining, and the route of the proposed conveyor belt (Figure 3.8-1). A subsequent visit was made on May 28, 1999, to examine the project alternative that eliminates the conveyor belt and allows for expansion of the access road to the Washington State Fire Department Fire Training Academy, and again on April 4, 2000, to examine the southern expansion of the Upper Site and the area of the proposed freshwater pond on the Lower Site.

To the extent possible, all areas of the proposed project and the alternatives were examined. Much of the ground surface within the project area, save the existing mine, is obscured by dense vegetation. To increase ground visibility, 20 cm x 20 cm patches were occasionally cleared using hand tools or footwear. Unpaved roadways, furrows, drainage banks, and rodent burrows were also examined for evidence of past human activity.

No historic, cultural, or archaeological resources were identified within the portions of the project area examined during the investigation. Despite the fact that much of the ground surface could not be readily examined, the project area does not appear to contain a high likelihood of containing significant archaeological resources. Most of the significant sites in the region occur along the numerous rivers and lakes in the area. In addition, the area in which limited cultural materials were previously located, adjacent to the crossing of the Snoqualmie River by SE Grouse Ridge Road, has been altered by construction of a bridge.

To view this figure, click on the link below.

[Figure 3.8-1 Archeological/Cultural/Historical Analysis Study Area](#)

3.8.2 Environmental Impacts

3.8.2.1 Construction Impacts

ALTERNATIVE 1 – NO ACTION

There are no historic, cultural or archaeological impacts associated with the No Action Alternative.

ALTERNATIVES 2, 3, AND 4

There are no previously identified historic, cultural, or archaeological resources within the project area. There are no impacts on historic, cultural or archaeological resources associated with these alternatives.

Alternatives 2 and 3 – Lower Site Option

There are no previously identified historic, cultural, or archaeological resources within the project area. There are no impacts on historic, cultural or archaeological resources associated with these alternatives.

3.8.2.2 Operation Impacts

ALTERNATIVE 1 – NO ACTION

There are no historic, cultural or archaeological impacts associated with the No Action Alternative.

ALTERNATIVES 2, 3, AND 4

There are no previously identified historic, cultural, or archaeological resources within the project area. There are no impacts on historic, cultural or archaeological resources associated with these alternatives.

Alternatives 2 and 3 – Lower Site Option

There are no previously identified historic, cultural, or archaeological resources within the project area. There are no impacts on historic, cultural or archaeological resources associated with these alternatives.

3.8.3 Cumulative Impacts

No historic, cultural, or archaeological resources were identified within the project area. As a result, no cumulative impacts on these resource types are anticipated from the project.

3.8.4 Mitigation Measures

3.8.4.1 Alternative 1 – No Action

No mitigation needed.

3.8.4.2 Alternatives 2, 3, and 4

No historic, cultural, or archaeological resources were identified within the project area. It is possible, however, that previously undiscovered archaeological resources may be exposed during construction. Unless properly evaluated and managed, this could result in a significant impact. As a result, the following mitigation measures are proposed:

- As areas of the project are cleared of vegetation, additional field investigations should be conducted, and construction and operations crews should be trained to recognize indications of archaeological sites. This training would include what constitutes an archaeological resource (such as exotic stone, marine shell) and proper protocol in the event of such a discovery.
- In the case of an unanticipated discovery, all ground-disturbing activities within the vicinity of the discovery should be halted until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the significance of the find. This would be completed with the assistance of the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, King County Office of Cultural Resources, and local Native American groups. With appropriate consultation, unforeseen impacts likely could be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

3.8.5 Significant Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

No historic, cultural, or archaeological resources were identified within the project area. As a result, no significant unavoidable adverse impacts are anticipated from this project.